

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION ON THE PRESIDENT'S AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE

America's Great Outdoors Youth Listening Session

July 15, 2010
Asheville, NC

"It's a recognition, passed down from one generation to the next, that few pursuits are more satisfying to the spirit than discovering the greatness of America's outdoors."

-President Barack Obama, April 16, 2010

Dear Friends,

On April 16, 2010, President Obama established the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to develop a conservation and recreation agenda for the 21st century. The President understands that efforts for protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must be community driven. For this reason, he has called upon senior government officials to host a series of public listening sessions in a range of locations across the country.

Young people play a critical role in shaping our country's environmental future. In his memorandum establishing the America's Great Outdoors initiative, President Obama asked that, **"special attention...be given to bringing young Americans into the conversation."** We want to engage you in this conversation from the beginning, and ensure that your voices are heard in the end.

Next week, the leaders of the America's Great Outdoors initiative are coming to Asheville to hear from you. Please join us for a public listening session at the Asheville-Buncombe County Technical Community College, Asheville Campus, on Thursday, July 15th.

Who: Young people (ages 14-25) from the Southeast Region
What: A discussion on America's Great Outdoors
When: **Thursday, July 15 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**
Where: **Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Asheville Campus**
Thomas W. Simpson Administration Building, Room 115
340 Victoria Road, Asheville, NC 28801

This event is hosted by the Department of the Interior (DOI), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

*Following this session, there will be an informal reception for participants. Youth are also encouraged to stay for the **general listening session from 1:00-4:00 pm.***

To ensure that we have sufficient space for everyone, we encourage you to let us know by **Monday, July 12** if you are able to attend **one or both** of these listening sessions. You can do so by sending **your name, age, email, and telephone number** to Megan_Dunn@ios.doi.gov.

Thank you for your support. We hope to see you in Asheville next week!

The America's Great Outdoors Team

For more information on this initiative, please visit www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors.